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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/46/733)]

46/149. International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/169 of 11 December 1987, 43/202 of 20 December 1988, 44/236 of 22 December 1989, in which it proclaimed the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, and 45/185 of 21 December 1990,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/58 of 26 July 1991,

Reaffirming the need for the international community to demonstrate the strong political determination required to mobilize and use existing scientific and technical knowledge to mitigate natural disasters, bearing in mind, in particular, the needs of developing countries,

Welcoming the positive steps taken by approximately one hundred Governments in establishing national committees or focal points to stimulate and coordinate disaster mitigation activities for the purpose of attaining the objective and goals set for the Decade,

Reconfirming the important responsibility of the United Nations system as a whole for promoting international cooperation in order to mitigate natural disasters, provide assistance and coordinate relief, preparedness and prevention,

Welcoming the establishment of the Special High-Level Council, which completes the organizational arrangements for the Decade called for in General Assembly resolution 44/236, and the inaugural session of the Council, held in New York on 9 and 10 October 1991, on the occasion of the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction,

/...

Expressing its appreciation to those countries that have provided generous support to the activities of the Decade through voluntary contributions, including staff secondments, the development and implementation of disaster reduction projects and the hosting of activities or meetings related to the Decade,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the Decade, the addendum to which contains the New York Declaration of the Special High-Level Council and the first annual report of the Scientific and Technical Committee on the Decade, 1/

1. Endorses the New York Declaration of the Special High-Level Council and encourages the members of the Council to embark actively on the implementation of their tasks, with particular attention to increasing public awareness of the potential for disaster reduction and raising support for the activities of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction from Governments, funding organizations and the business community;

2. Also endorses the recommendations contained in the first annual report of the Scientific and Technical Committee on the Decade, 2/ while recognizing that implementation by disaster-vulnerable countries of the targets set by the Committee would constitute significant progress in reducing the impact of disasters during the Decade;

3. Further endorses the proposal of the Scientific and Technical Committee concerning the convening in 1994 of a world conference of representatives of national committees for the Decade, 3/ which would bring together participants from a broad range of sectors of activity, including the scientific and technological sector, the business sector and the industrial sector, as well as non-governmental groups, and which would serve as a substantive contribution to the mid-term review of the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the Decade called for in resolution 44/236;

4. Commends the initiatives already taken by countries exposed to disasters to reduce their vulnerability, and encourages them to continue with the adoption of national disaster mitigation policies and their implementation during the Decade in the context of their socio-economic development, taking into account the targets proposed by the Scientific and Technical Committee as a measure of progress in disaster reduction;

5. Stresses the benefits of regional meetings with heads of national committees, such as that organized at Guatemala City from 9 to 13 September 1991 by the Pan American Health Organization, the World Health Organization Regional Office for the Americas, the Organization of American States and the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator;

6. Invites Governments to accelerate communication and cooperation globally and at the regional level in order to share valuable experience and to transfer scientific and technical knowledge for disaster mitigation;

1/ A/46/266-E/1991/106 and Add.1.

2/ A/46/266-E/1991/106/Add.1, annex II.

3/ Ibid., para. 6 (e).

7. Reiterates its appeals to the international community, in particular to donor countries, for adequate funding, including contributions to the Trust Fund, for carrying out the activities of the Decade;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the activities of the Decade.

77th plenary meeting
18 December 1991